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United Nations Forum on Forests
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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Common items for each session: enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination

Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its first session, the United Nations Forum on Forests made provisions in its multi-year programme of work for enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination as a common item that will be addressed at each session of the Forum.[1] It was also decided that the Forum should cooperate and make active efforts to develop synergies with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;[2] the Commission on Sustainable Development and other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council; and other regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments.

2. The Forum particularly emphasized the important role of the Partnership in supporting the work of the Forum in achieving its objectives and in enhancing coordination and cooperation among its member organizations at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. The Partnership was established at its inaugural meeting, held in Rome in April 2001. The Partnership consists of international organizations, institutions and instruments that have the capacity, programmes and substantive resources to facilitate the Forum process, in particular the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF).

3. The Partnership has met five times since its inauguration and has agreed, among other things, on its working modalities, including a focal agency system in which a focal agency of the Partnership would support Forum deliberations. Each focal agency would also act as a focal point for facilitating and coordinating activities of Partnership members towards the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to given Forum elements.[3] In that regard, in terms of technical assistance and cooperation activities at the national level, the Partnership

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would act upon the request of countries. The focal agency of the Partnership would also facilitate the policy deliberations of the Forum, including by drafting and providing inputs to the reports of the Secretary-General on specific Forum elements. The focal agency of the Partnership would work closely with Partnership members and other partners, as appropriate.

4. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination has been allocated one meeting during the second session of the Forum, at which the Partnership will present its progress report on a framework for its contribution to the work of the Forum, followed by guidance and feedback from the Forum. However, it should be noted that member bodies of the Partnership can carry out its work only in accordance with the guidance provided by their respective governing bodies. In addition, the Forum may wish to discuss how to further enhance and strengthen cooperation and coordination and foster synergies between other relevant forums, both within and outside the United Nations system. A list of meetings scheduled for 2002 that are relevant to the Forum is provided in the table below.[4]

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 22* (E/2001/42/Rev.1), part two, chap. I, sect. B, resolution 1/1.

[2] The Partnership is chaired by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and its members include the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa; the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR); the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; FAO; the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Global Environment Facility (GEF); the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and the World Bank.

[3] The working modalities are outlined in a Partnership policy document issued in May 2001, and are further elaborated in a framework for the contribution of the Partnership to the work of the Forum issued in January 2002.

[4] For more detailed information regarding upcoming forest-related meetings, see the calendar of events on the web site of the Forum, at: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm.

Meetings scheduled for 2002 that are relevant to the United Nations Forum on Forests, including sessions of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, international conferences and their preparatory processes, and meetings of conferences of parties to United Nations conventions[a]

Body/conference	*Meeting/session*	*Date (2002)*	*Venue*
1. Economic and Social Council			
	Organizational session	12-15 February	New York
	Resumed organizational session	29 and 30 April	New York
	Substantive session	1-26 July	New York
Functional commissions			
Commission for Social Development	Fortieth session	12-21 February	New York
Commission on the Status of Women	Forty-sixth session	4-15 March	New York
Commission on Population and Development	Thirty-fifth session	1-5 April	New York
Regional commissions			
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Fifty-eighth session	March/April	Bangkok
Economic Commission for Africa	Thirty-seventh session	First week of April	Addis Ababa
Economic Commission for Europe	Fifty-seventh session	6-10 May	Geneva
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Twenty-ninth session	6-10 May	Brasilia
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	*[Not required to hold a session during 2002; however, may hold a special session, if necessary]*		
Standing committees			
Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	Resumed 2001 session	14-25 January	New York
	2002 session	15-19 April and 13-24 May	New York
	Organizational session	June (1 day)	New York
Committee for Programme and Coordination	Organizational session	May (1 day)	New York
	Forty-second session (first part)	10 June-5 July	New York
	Forty-second session (second part)	19-30 August	New York

Body/conference	*Meeting/session*	*Date (2002)*	*Venue*
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development	Third session	9-20 December	New York
2. International conferences and their preparatory processes			
Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development	Final preparatory meeting	14-25 January	New York
International Conference on Financing for Development		18-22 March	Monterrey, Mexico
Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development	Second session	28 January-8 February	New York
	Third session	25 March-5 April	New York
	Fourth session	27 May-7 June	Jakarta
World Summit on Sustainable Development		26 August-4 September	Johannesburg
3. Conferences of parties to United Nations conventions			
Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity	Sixth session	8-26 April	The Hague
Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Eighth session	23 October-1 November	Bonn

[a] See E/2002/INF.1.